Syria/Egypt 87-

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#SYRIA-EGYPT, 2ND LD-WRITETHRU

#EDS: UPDATES WITH REPORT OF LEBANON ACCEPTANCE TO ATTEND TALKS, TIGHTENS

#LASERPHOTO AVAILABLE

#BY ED BLANCHE=

#ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER=

DAMASCUS, SYRIA (AP) - EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT HOSNI MUBARAK PAID A SURPRISE VISIT TO DAMASCUS MONDAY, APPARENTLY TO ENCOURAGE SYRIA TO ATTEND THE SECOND ROUND OF MIDDLE EAST PEACE TALKS SCHEDULED FOR WASHINGTON DEC. 4.

MUBARAK, LEADER OF THE ARAB WORLD'S MODERATE WING, IS WASHINGTON'S STAUNCHEST ARAB ALLY AND STRONGLY BACKS THE U.S.-LED PEACE INITIATIVE.

OFFICIALS GAVE NO DETAILS OF THE CLOSED-DOOR TALKS INSIDE PRESIDENT HAFEZ ASSAD'S GUEST PALACE. BUT THERE WERE SIGNS OF COMPROMISE BY OTHER ARAB PARTIES WHO HAVE YET TO FORMALLY RESPOND TO INVITATIONS ISSUED BY WASHINGTON FRIDAY.

YASSER AMR, A MEMBER OF THE PLO'S GOVERNING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, SAID THE PALESTINIANS WILL ATTEND THE TALKS IF U.S. AUTHORITIES ALLOW PLO OFFICIALS TO GO TO WASHINGTON AS WELL.

AMR SAID AFTER MEETINGS WITH SYRIAN VICE-PRESIDENT ABDUL KARIM KHADDAM AND FOREIGN MINISTER FAROUK AL-SHARAA: ''WE SAID 'YES' TO WASHINGTON PROVIDED THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION PROVIDES THE FACILITIES WHICH THE PLO REQUESTED WITH REGARD TO THE FREE ENTRY AND MOVEMENT OF PALESTINIANS.''

AMR SAID THAT THE SYRIANS AND THE PLO ALSO INSIST THAT ISRAEL MUST MAKE A COMMITMENT TO STOP BUILDING JEWISH SETTLEMENTS IN ARAB LAND SEIZED IN THE 1967 MIDEAST WAR AND TO DISCUSS WITHDRAWING FROM THOSE TERRITORIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS.

ISRAEL HAS SO FAR REFUSED TO DO EITHER. SYRIA, THE MOST HARD LINE OF THE ARAB PARTIES TO THE PEACE PROCESS LAUNCHED IN MADRID OCT. 30, INSISTS THAT WITHOUT AN ISRAELI COMMITMENT TO EXCHANGE LAND FOR PEACE THE TALKS ARE POINTLESS.

EGYPT SIGNED A U.S.-BROKERED PEACE TREATY WITH ISRAEL IN 1979 AND IS THUS NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE BILATERAL TALKS, BUT IT HAS SAID IT IS PREPARED TO USE ITS INFLUENCE AND NEGOTIATING EXPERIENCE TO HELP MOVE FORWARD.

SO FAR, ONLY JORDAN HAS FORMALLY AGREED TO GO TO WASHINGTON, ALTHOUGH THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BEIRUT, RYAN CROCKER, SAID MONDAY THAT LEBANON PLANNED TO GO, THAT INDICATED THE SYRIANS DO AS WELL BECAUSE THE TWO COUNTRIES COORDINATE CLOSELY ON THE TALKS.

ISRAEL, SYRIA AND THE PALESTINIANS HAVE ALL VOICED ANGER AT WASHINGTON'S FAILURE TO CONSULT THEM ON THE TIMING AND VENUE OF THE PLANNED TALKS.

DESPITE THE RUFFLED FEATHERS, NONE OF THE PARTIES APPEARED PREPARED TO DERAIL THE MOST PROMISING EFFORT TO END THE ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE SINCE IT ERUPTED IN 1948.

AMMAN'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE U.S. INVITATION WITHIN HOURS OF IT BEING ISSUED FRIDAY ANGERED THE SYRIANS, FUELING SUSPICIONS IN DAMASCUS THAT THE JORDANIANS MAY BREAK RANKS AND SIGN A SEPARATE TREATY WITH ISRAEL.

THE SYRIANS HAVE ALSO BEEN TRYING TO WOO THE PALESTINIANS AWAY FROM JORDAN TO BOLSTER THE HARD-LINE FACTION.

#MORE

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#SYRIA-EGYPT, 2ND LD-1ST ADD
#DAMASCUS, SYRIA: HARD-LINE FACTION.
THE PALESTINIANS WERE PART OF A JOINT DELEGATION WITH JORDAN BECAUSE THE ISRAELIS REFUSE TO DEAL WITH THEM ON THEIR OWN.
BUT UNLIKE JORDAN, SYRIA AND THE PALESTINIANS HAVE A COMMON OBJECTIVE - REGAINING TERRITORY OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL.
SYRIA WANTS THE STRATEGIC GOLAN HEIGHTS BACK. THE PALESTINIANS WANT THE WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP FOR THEIR HOMELAND.
IN JULY 1988, KING HUSSEIN OF JORDAN RELINQUISHED AMMAN'S CLAIM TO THE FERTILE WEST BANK, WHICH THE JORDANIANS ANNEXED IN 1950.
DESPITE SYRIAN MOVES TO SWING THE PALESTINIANS BEHIND THEM, THE PLO APPEARED TO TRYING TO KEEP ITS OPTIONS OPEN.
AMR WAS CAREFUL NOT TO COMMENT ON JORDAN'S DECISION TO ATTEND THE WASHINGTON TALKS OR AMMAN'S AGREEMENT TO ATTEND MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ON REGIONAL ISSUES SUCH AS SHARING WATER RESOURCES AND ARMS CONTROLS.
DAMASCUS INSISTS THESE CANNOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL ISRAEL HAS AGREED TO DISCUSS LAND FOR PEACE.
AMR DECLARED: ''WE AND JORDAN HAVE A MUTUAL STAND AND WE HOPE THE JORDANIAN SIDE WILL ACCEPT THE VIEW THAT GOING TO THE MULTILATERAL TALKS DEPENDS ON THE OUTCOME OF THE BILATERAL TALKS, WHICH ARE RELATED TO LAND.''
HE SAID THE PALESTINIANS AND JORDAN WILL CONTINUE TO COOPERATE.
THE PLO WAS CUT OUT OF THE PEACE PROCESS BECAUSE OF ISRAEL'S REFUSAL TO DEAL WITH WHAT ITS CONSIDERS A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION. BUT ARAB DIPLOMATS SAY THAT ARAFAT AND HIS LIEUTENANTS ARE CALLING THE SHOTS BEHIND THE SCENES.

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Syria - Egypt

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EGYPT-SYRIA, 2ND LD-WRITETHRU
#LASERPHOTO AVAILABLE
#UNSCHEDULED ASSAD-MUBARAK TALKS AFTER BUSH MESSAGE
#EDS: UPDATES WITH END OF MEETING, ADDS COMMENTS FROM EGYPTIAN
#OZMINISTER, WRAPS UP
#BY ZINA HEMADY=
#ASSOCIATEDLWJSS WRITER=
CAIRO, EGYPT (AP) - THE PRESIDENTS OF SYRIA AMD EGYPT HELD AN UNSCHEDULED MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, TWO DAYS AFTER U.S. PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH PERSONALLY INTERVENED VN WJSHINGTON'S CAMPACGN FOR A MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT.

SYRIA'S HAFEZ ASSAD AND HOSNI MUBARAK OF EGYPT MET PRIVATELY FOR AN HOUR AFTER THE SYRIAN'S SURPRISE ARRIVAL, THEN WEREJOTNED BY THEIR FOREIGN MINISTERS FOR A 2 1-2-HOUR WORKING LUNCH. THE SYRIAN DELEGATION WAS TO RETURN TO DAMASCUS IN THE AFTERNOON.

FOLLOWING THE TALKS, FOREIGN MINISTER AMR MOUSSA TOLD REPORTERS THE TALKS FOCUSED ON THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS, REGIONAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE GULF WAR AND BUSH'S CALL FOR ARMS CONTROL IN THE REGION.

BUSH'S COMMUNICATION WITH MIDDLE EAST LEADERS, URGING THEM TO COMPROMISE IN ORDER TO FACILIATE THE START OF PEACE TALKS, WAS CERTAIN TO BE ON THE MUBARAK-ASSAD AGENDA. HOWEVER, MOUSSA DID NOT MENTION IT.

MOUSSA SAID MUBARAK AND ASSAD DISCUSSED OBSTACLES BLOCKING THE START OF THE PEACE PROCESS. HE SAID IT WAS IMPERITIVE THAT HE PEACE PROCESS START ''AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.'' HE SAID SYRIA AND EGYPT AGREE ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES REGARDING PEACE AND THAT OTHER POINTS WOULD BE FURTHER DISCUSSED DURING HIS VISIT NEXT WEEK TO DAMASCUS. HE DID NOT ELABORATE.

ON SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS IN THE GULF, MOUSSA SAID THAT EGYPT AND SYRIA WILL HOLD TALKS NEXT WEEK AT THE LEVEL OF EXPERTS TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION. HE SAID THERE WILL BE FOLLOW-UP MEETINGS AT MINISERIAL LEVEL SOON.

DIPLOMATIC SOURCES IN WASHINGTON SAID ON MONDAY THAT BUSH WROTE TO THE LEADERS OF EGYPT, SYRIA, SAUDI ARABIA, JORDAN AND ISRAEL IN HIS INITIATIVE. THEY SAID THE LETTERS REQUESTED COMPROMISE OVER DISPUTES BLOCKING A MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE.

ISRAELI NEWSPAPERS HAVE REPORTED THAT THE JEWISH STATE ALREADY TURNED DOWN BUSH'S APPEAL. AND ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK SHAMIR SAID TUESDAY HIS GOVERNMENT ALREADY HAS CONCEDED ENOUGH FOR PEACE AND REPEATED HIS REJECTION OF BRINGING THE UNITED NATIONS INTO ANY PEACE CONFERENCE.

U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE JAMES BAKER HAS VISITED THE MIDDLE EAST FOUR TIMES SINCE THE END OF THE GULF WAR SEEKING AGREEMENT ON A REGIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE.

ISRAEL INSISTS ON DIRECT TALKS WITH ITS ARAB FOES WITHOUT U.N. INVOLVEMENT. EGYPT SUPPORTS A CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION. BUT SYRIA HAS BEEN ADAMANT ON A ROLE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS.

''I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT THE UNITED NATIONS WILL NOT BE FAR FROM THE NEGOTIATION PROCESS, BECAUSE BASICALLY THE NEGOTIAION PROCESS WILL BE BASED ON UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS,'' MOUSSA SAID IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED WEDNESDAY.

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EGYPT-SYRIA, 2ND LD-1ST ADD
CAIRO: PUBLISHED WEDNESDAY.
MOUSSA DESCRIBED ISRAEL'S POSITION AS ''FRIGHTENING'' AND REITERATED EGYPT'S CONDEMNATION OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES.
''I HOPE ISRAEL REALIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF SITTING AT A (NEGOTIATING) TABLE AND DOES NOT LOSE ANOTHER CHANCE THAT CAN LEAD TO A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE THAT WILL BENEFIT EVERYONE INCLUDING ISRAEL,'' MOUSSA TOLD THE MAGAZINE AL MUSSAWAR.
ASIDE FROM PEACE PROSPECTS, ASSAD AND MUBARAK DISCUSSED SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS AFTER AN INTERNATIONAL COALITION DROVE IRAQI OCCUPIERS FROM KUWAIT.
A MARCH 8 AGREEMENT REACHED IN DAMASCUS SPECIFIED HAT EGYPTIAN ASZSYRIAN TROOPS THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE ALLIED OFFENSIVE WERE TO REMAIN IN THE GULF AS THE NUCLEUS OF AN ARAB SECURITY FORCE.
S[illegible] EGBPT
GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL, SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT, BAHRAIN, QATAR, OMAN AND THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES. THS OL-RICH GUGF STATES WERE TO PRMVIDE EGYPT AND SYRIA WITH FINANCIAL AID IN EXCHANGE FOR PROTECTION.
BUT TWO MONTHS LATER, MUBARAK ANNOUNCED WITHDRAWAL OF EGYPT'S 36,000 FORCES, 10,000 OF WHOM ALREADY HAVE RETURNED. SYRIA REPORTED THIS WEEK IT ALSO IS BRINGING HOME ITS 19,000 SOLDIERS. EGYPTIAN SOURCES SAID KUWAIT PREFERRED TO HAVE WESTERN RATHER THAN EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN SOLDIERS.
DESPITE THE DEPARTURE OF EGYPT'S AND SYRIA'S TROOPS, ARAB LEADERS INSIST THE DAMASCUS DECLARATION REMAINS ALIVE. MUBARAK SAID HE IS WILLINGTO SEND HIS TROOPS BACK AFTER A DETAILED PACT IS NEGOTIATED TO SPECIFY THEIR ROLE.
MOUSSA TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE RETURN OF THE EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN TROOPS ''WILL BE THE SUBJECT TO MEETINGS AND FURTHER CONSULTATIONS NEXT WEEK ON EXPERT LEVEL THEN ON MINISTERIAL LEVEL WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE DAMASCUS DECLARATION.''
IN THE INTERVIEW WITH AL MUSSAWAR, FOREIGN MINISTER MOUSSA REITERATED CAIRO'S POSITION THAT THE WITHDRAWAL DOES NOT MEAN THAT EGYPT REJECTS THE IDEA THAT THE ARABS SHOULD ARRANGE THEIR OWN SECURITY.
IN ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT WEDNESDAY, EPHRAIM DOWEK, ISRAEL'S AMBASSADOR TO CAIRO, WENT TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO EXPRESS HIS DISPLEASURE AT AN ARTICLE TWO WEEKS AGO IN THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED AL MUSSAWAR.
ISAAC BAR-MOSHE, THE ISRAELI EMBASSY'S PRESS ATTACHE, SACD DOWEK EXPRESSSD DISPLEASURE BECAUSE THE ARTICLE BY ''INSTIGATES EGYPTIANS AGAINST ISRAEL AND IS COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE TO PEACE.''
THE SARCASTIC ARTICLE BY WRITE
MAHMOUD EL-SAADANY WAS FILLED WITH PERSONAL INVECTIVE AGAINST ISRAELI LEADERS. INTERSPERSED AMONG ITS PARAGRAPHS WAS THE SENTENCE: ''IT'S ABSOLUTELY USELESS TO TRY AND LIVE IN PEACE WITH ISRAEL.''
IN 1979, EGYPT BECAME THE FIRST ARAB STATE OO SIGN A PEACE TREATY WITH THE JEWISH STATE. SIGNING OF TME U.S.-BROKERED AG
EEMENT PROMPTED ALMOST ALL ARAB STATES TO SEVER DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH CAIRO. BUT MUBARAK SUCCESSFULLY ENDED EGYPT'S POLITICAL ISOLATION UND HAS RESTODED RELATIONS WITH ALL ARAB STATES TO NORMAL.
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SYRIA-EGYPT

^SYRIA INTERESTED IN UNITY WITH EGYPT

DAMASCUS, SYRIA (AP) - PRESIDENT HAFEZ ASSAD HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN RENEWING UNITY WITH EGYPT AS A FIRST STEP TOWARDS ACHIEVING PAN-ARAB UNITY, THE AL-BAATH DAILY NEWSPAPER REPORTED THURSDAY.

''I WOULD LIKE TO REFER TO THE FEELINGS OF MILLIONS OF SYRIAN PEOPLE WHO ARE EAGER TO RESTORE UNITY WITH EGYPT AS A MAIN STEP TOWARDS ACHIEVING A COMPREHENSIVE ARAB UNITY.'' ASSAD WAS QUOTED AS SAYING.

ASSAD'S REMARKS CAME IN A TELEGRAM SENT WEDNESDAY IN REPLY TO A MESSAGE FROM AHMAD AL-KHAWAJA, HEAD OF THE EGYPTIAN LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION.

AL-BAATH, THE ORGAN OF THE RULING BAATH PARTY, CARRIED THE TEXT OF ASSAD'S MESSAGE.

HE ADDED: ''SYRIA'S HAND IS ALWAYS EXTENDED TO EGYPT, STRONGLY AND SINCERELY, IN ORDER TO BUILD UNITY AND ERASE ALL TRACES OF THE SETBACK TO OUR NATIONALIST EXPERIENCE.''

ASSAD WAS REFERRING TO THE UNION BETWEEN SYRIA AND EGYPT FORMED IN 1958 AND KNOWN AS THE UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC. IT COLLAPSED THREE YEARS LATER OVER ATTEMPTS BY THE LATE EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT GAMAL ABDUL NASSER TO CONTROL SYRIA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

''FACTS OF HISTORY HAVE SHOWN THE IMPORTANCE OF UNITY BETWEEN SYRIA AND EGYPT AND ITS ROLE IN DEFENDING THE ARAB NATION'S EXISTENCE, DIGNITY AND FUTURE,'' ASSAD SAID.

FOR YEARS, SYRIA LED THE RADICAL ARAB COUNTRIES' OPPOSITION TO EGYPT, WHOSE ARAB LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP WAS SUSPENDED WHEN IT SIGNED A PEACE TREATY WITH ISRAEL IN 1979.

BUT SYRIA RESTORED TIES WITH CAIRO SHORTLY BEFORE AN ARAB LEAGUE SUMMIT HELD IN MOROCCO IN MAY WHERE EGYPT WAS RE-ADMITTED TO THE 22-MEMBER ORGANIZATION.

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SYRIA-EGYPT. SUB

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ORGANIZATION.

MOST ARAB NATIONS WHO SUSPENDED RELATIONS WITH EGYPT AFTER THE 1979 TREATY HAVE RESTORED RELATIONS. ONLY SYRIA AND LIBYA STILL HAVE NO DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH EGYPT.

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EGYPT-SYRIA

EDITORIAL WARNS EGYPT WILL STRIKE AGAINST SYRIA

CAIRO, EGYPT (AP) - AN EDITORIAL IN A SEMI-GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER THREATENED ON FRIDAY THAT EGYPT WILL STRIKE AGAINST SYRIA IF IT DOES NOT STOP ITS ATTACKS AGAINST THE POLICIES OF THE CAIRO GOVERNMENT.

''I HAVE LEARNED THAT EGYPT WILL NOT REMAIN QUIET FOR LONG IN FRONT OF THESE SYRIAN GAMES AND ITS RECKONING WITH THE REGIME OF (SYRIAN PRESIDENT) HAFEZ ASSAD WILL BE COMPREHENSIVE IF SYRIA CONTINUES ITS AGGRESSIVE POLICY AGAINST EGYPT,'' IBRAHIM NAFEH, EDITOR OF PRESTIGIOUS AL-AHRAM NEWSPAPER SAID.

''EGYPT IS STRONG ENOUGH TO FACE THESE SYRIAN GAMES,'' NAFEH, KNOWN TO BE CLOSE TO PRESIDENT HOSNI MUBARAK, ADDED.

HE DID NOT ELABORATE ON HOW EGYPT WOULD RETAILATE.

THE EDITORIAL SAID THE LATEST OF A LONG LIST OF SYRIAN VERBAL AND POLITICAL ATTACKS ON EGYPT TOOK PLACE WHEN BOTH SYRIA AND IRAN QUESTIONED WHETHER EGYPT SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND THE ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE SUMMIT LATER THIS MONTH.

SYRIA WAS ONE OF 21 ARAB STATES WHICH SEVERED RELATIONS WITH EGYPT FOLLOWING ITS 1979 PEACE TREATY WITH ISRAEL. MUBARAK HAS SAID REPEATEDLY THAT RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES EXCEPT SYRIA AND LIBYA HAVE IMPROVED.

NAFEH WROTE THAT EGYPT HAD EVIDENCE OF SYRIAN-ISRAELI CONTACTS AND ACCUSED SYRIA OF PROVIDING ISRAEL WITH HELP IN THE AMERICAN ARMS DEAL TO IRAN.

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